

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A thin film magnetic head comprising at least one writing element,

said writing element including a first magnetic film, a second magnetic film, a gap film, a coil film and third magnetic films,

said first magnetic film including a first pole piece,

said second magnetic film including a second pole piece,

said gap film being located between said first pole piece and said second pole piece,

said first magnetic film and said second magnetic film being magnetically combined at a joint as viewed backward from said first pole piece and said second pole piece,

said coil film winding vertically around said joint, and

said third magnetic films being disposed at both sides of said first pole piece or said second pole piece by a given distance,

wherein said third magnetic films are disposed between a medium opposing surface of the thin film magnetic head and an outermost coil turn of said coil film, and said distance is set within 1.5-6 μm .

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein said third magnetic films are divided.

6. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 1, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

7. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 1 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

8. (Original) A magnetic recording/reproducing device comprising a magnetic head device as defined in claim 7 and a magnetic recording medium to be magnetically written and read with cooperated with said magnetic head device.

9. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 2, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

10-11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 5, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

13-15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 5 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

17. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 6 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

18. (Previously Presented) A thin film magnetic head comprising at least one writing element,

said writing element including a first magnetic film, a second magnetic film, a gap film, a coil film and third magnetic films,

said first magnetic film including a first pole piece,

said second magnetic film including a second pole piece,

said gap film being located between said first pole piece and said second pole piece,

said first magnetic film and said second magnetic film being magnetically combined at a joint as viewed backward from said first pole piece and said second pole piece,

said coil film winding vertically around said joint,

said third magnetic films being disposed at both sides of said first pole piece or said second pole piece by a given distance, wherein said third magnetic films are so disposed as to cover said coil film.

19. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 18, wherein said distance is set within 1.5-6 μm .

20. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 18, wherein said third magnetic films are divided.

21. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 18, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

22. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 18 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

23. (Previously Presented) A magnetic recording/reproducing device comprising a magnetic head device as defined in claim 22 and a magnetic recording medium to be magnetically written and read with cooperated with said magnetic head device.

24. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 19, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

25. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 20, further comprising a reading element comprised of a giant magnetoresistive effective film.

26. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 19 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

27. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 20 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

28. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head device comprising a thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 21 and a head supporting device to support said thin film magnetic head.

29. (Previously Presented) The thin film magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the first pole piece, the second pole piece and the gap film are located on a same plane level; and

forefronts of the first pole piece, the second pole piece and the gap film constitute the medium opposing surface.